

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please **AMEND** claims 1, and 3 to 9 as follows:

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1. (Amended) A sleeve for arrangement in a connector between an optical fiber and a transmitting or receiving module for optically connecting the optical fiber and the transmitting or receiving module, said sleeve comprising:

A15 a body containing a light-leading path of frusto-conical shape having a small-diameter end face for facing the transmitting or receiving module;

an outer tube portion disposed concentrically with respect to the light-leading path and being substantially coextensive therewith; and

a peripheral projecting portion extending radially between and interconnecting the outer tube portion and the periphery of the light-leading path.

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A16 3. (Amended) The sleeve as set forth in claim 2, wherein an outside diameter of the outer tube portion is substantially uniform over an entire length of the light-leading path.

4. (Amended) The sleeve as set forth in claim 1, wherein the outer tube portion has a flange projecting annularly in a radial direction from a peripheral surface thereof.

5. (Amended) The sleeve as set forth in claim 1, including  
a convex lens formed integrally with said light-leading path for extending toward the optical  
fiber.

6. (Amended) The sleeve as set forth in claim 5, wherein  
the lens has an axial length not greater than an optical fiber side end of the outer tube portion.

7. (Amended) The sleeve as set forth in claim 1, wherein  
an end face of said light-leading path opposite said small diameter end face is a light-  
receiving surface for receiving light transmitted by an optical fiber, and  
a diameter of the light-receiving surface is larger than a diameter of a light-emitting surface  
at an end face of an optical fiber.

8. The sleeve as set forth in claim 1, wherein  
the small-diameter end face of the light-leading path is a light-emitting surface to emit light  
transmitted to a receiving module, and  
a diameter of the light-emitting surface is smaller than a diameter of a light-receiving surface  
of the receiving module.

9. (Amended) The sleeve as set forth in any one of claims 1-6, wherein  
the small-diameter end face of the light-leading path is a light-receiving surface for receiving  
light transmitted from a transmitting module, and  
a diameter of the light-receiving surface is larger than a diameter of a light-emitting surface  
to the transmitting module.

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